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Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: international migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 99 (see A/54/587, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 25th and 44th meetings, on 28 October and 1 December 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.25 and 44).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.11 and L.53

2. At the 25th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development, including the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development" (A/C.2/54/L.11), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/54/587 and Add.1-8.

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"*The General Assembly,*

"*Recalling* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo, in particular chapter X, on international migration, and the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995 and 52/189 of 18 December 1997, on international migration and development, as well as Economic and Social Council decision 1995/313 of 27 July 1995,

"*Reaffirming* the continuing validity of the principles set forth in the instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

"*Recalling* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should carry out their respective responsibilities as entrusted to them in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the relevant United Nations conferences of the 1990s, in the formulation of policies and the provision of guidance to and coordination of United Nations activities in the field of population and development, including activities on international migration,

"*Noting* in particular that the role of relevant United Nations organizations that address migration issues should be strengthened so that they can deliver adequate technical support to developing countries to ensure that migration contributes to development,

"*Recognizing* the majority views expressed by respondents to the survey as contained in the report of the Secretary-General in support of convening an international conference on migration and development, and recognizing also the diversity of views expressed regarding the scope, form and agenda of the conference,

"*Noting* in particular the current lack of migration data and the need for such data, as well as a coherent theory to explain international migration, and a better understanding of the complex interrelationships between migration and development,

"*Noting* the critical role of the existing forums within the United Nations system in addressing the issues of international migration and development, including through the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee for Development Policies, the International Labour Organization and other relevant key organizations,

"*Noting also* that meetings and conferences were held in the context of regional cooperation, including the International Symposium: Towards Regional Cooperation in Irregular/Undocumented Migration, held at Bangkok from 21 to 23 April 1999, which adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Irregular Migration, the Commonwealth of Independent States conference on migration, the Regional Conference on Migration in North and Central America, and the migration capacity-building and regional cooperation meetings organized by the International Migration Policy Programme with senior government officials from Eastern and Central Europe at Budapest in November 1998 and senior government officials from southern Africa at Pretoria in

April 1999 and to be held at Bangkok in November 1999 with Governments from Asia and the Pacific,

"*Noting further* the establishment of the International Migration Policy Programme in May 1998 by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Organization for Migration, and the United Nations Population Fund, to be implemented in partnership with the International Labour Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international and regional institutions with a view to strengthening the capacity of Governments in different regions to manage migration flows at national and regional levels and thus to foster cooperation among States towards orderly migration,

"*Aware* that the process of globalization and liberalization, including the increasing interdependence of economies, as well as the increasing marginalization of developing countries in the global economy, have contributed to large flows of peoples between and among countries, and has intensified the complex phenomenon of international migration,

"*Aware also* that in spite of the existence of an already established body of principles, there is a need to make further efforts to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families are protected, and to improve the situation of all documented migrants and their families,

"*Recognizing* the importance from an analytical and operational point of view of identifying the existing linkages among the social, economic, political and cultural factors related to international migration and development, and of the need for comprehensive, coherent and effective policies on international migration based on the spirit of genuine partnership and common understanding,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development;

"2. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the root causes of migration, especially those related to poverty, and to maximize the benefits of international migration to those concerned;

"3. *Encourages* interregional, regional and subregional mechanisms to continue to address the question of migration and development;

"4. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, and to provide appropriate support for interregional, regional and subregional processes and activities on international migration and development;

"5. *Also calls upon* the international community to seek to make the option of remaining in one's country viable for all people, to which end efforts to achieve sustainable economic and social development, ensuring a better economic balance between developed and developing countries, should be strengthened;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to solicit more views from Member States, particularly those that have not responded to the survey requested in pursuance of its previous resolution, as well as from the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant organizations, both within

and outside the United Nations system, on the report of the Secretary-General submitted at the fifty-second session, bearing in mind various regional processes, and to recommend ways and means to address the problems related to migration and development, including the possibility of convening an international conference on international migration and development;

"7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to initiate appropriate action through the regional commissions in order to ensure the carrying out of interregional activities, such as seminars, expert meetings or symposia, with the contribution of the relevant actors on issues relating to international migration and development, taking into account, *inter alia*, the report of the Secretary-General and also requests the United Nations bodies and other appropriate international organizations to provide support to such activities;

"8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session that will, *inter alia*, summarize the lessons learned, as well as best practices on migration management and policies, from the various activities relating to international migration and development which have been carried out at the regional and interregional levels, and recommending for the consideration of the Assembly policy actions that could be pursued at the international level, taking into account, *inter alia*, the following:

"(a) The results of meetings and conferences relating to migration and development held in the context of regional cooperation;

"(b) The report of the Committee for Development Policy on its examination of the issue of migration and development;

"(c) The report of the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development, held at The Hague from 29 June to 3 July 1999;

"(d) The work of the relevant international organizations, bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations in the field of international migration and development;

"(e) The possible mechanisms to examine in a comprehensive and integrated manner all issues and questions pertinent to international migration and development;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session an assessment of migration data within the various regions and between regions, including, where possible, simulation studies on replacement migration, with a view to providing countries with useful information pertinent to migration management and policies;

"10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item 'International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development'."

3. At the 44th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Alexandru Niculescu (Romania), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/54/L.53), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.11.

4. In introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairman orally revised it as follows:

(a) The words "in particular in the context of regional cooperation" were added to the end of the ninth preambular paragraph;

(b) In operative paragraph 6, the word "problem" was replaced by the word "problems".

5. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and the Philippines (see A/C.2/54/SR.44).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.53, as orally revised (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.11 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo,[1] in particular chapter X on international migration, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-21/2 of 2 July 1999, in particular section II.C on international migration, as well as the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[2] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[3] and in the Platform for Action[4] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling also its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995 and 52/189 of 18 December 1997 on international migration and development, as well as Economic and Social Council decision 1995/313 of 27 July 1995,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the principles set forth in the international instruments regarding the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[6] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[7] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[8]

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] Resolution 217 A (III).

[6] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[7] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[8] Resolution 44/25, annex.

Recalling that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should carry out their respective responsibilities as entrusted to them in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the relevant United Nations conferences of the 1990s, in the formulation of policies and the provision of guidance to and coordination of United Nations activities in the field of population and development, including activities on international migration,

Noting the need for the relevant United Nations organizations and other international organizations to enhance their technical support to developing countries to ensure that migration contributes to development,

Recognizing the diversity of views expressed by the respondents to the survey regarding the question of convening a United Nations conference on international migration, its scope, form and agenda,[9] which represented 39 per cent of the full United Nations membership, and that forty-five respondents were in favour of convening a conference, five were partially in favour and twenty-six were against,

Noting in particular the need for more migration data, a coherent theory to explain international migration and a better understanding of the complex interrelationships between migration and development,

Noting the critical role of the existing forums within the United Nations system in addressing the issues of international migration and development, including through the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Committee on Development Policy, the International Labour Organization and other relevant key organizations,

Noting with appreciation the numerous meetings and conferences convened relating to migration and development,[10] in particular in the context of regional cooperation,

Noting also the establishment of the International Migration Policy Programme in May 1998 by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Population Fund, to be implemented in partnership with the International Labour Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international and regional institutions with a view to strengthening the capacity of Governments in different regions to manage migration flows at national and regional levels and thus to foster cooperation among States towards orderly migration,

Aware that, among other factors, the process of globalization and liberalization, including the widening economic and social gap between and among many countries and

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[9] See A/54/207.

[10] Including the International Symposium: Towards Regional Cooperation in Irregular/Undocumented Migration, held at Bangkok from 21 to 23 April 1999, which adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Irregular Migration (see A/C.2/54/2, annex); the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Displacement and Returnees in Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, held at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1996; the Regional Conference on Migration in North and Central America; the migration capacity-building and regional cooperation meetings organized by the International Migration Policy Programme with senior government officials from Eastern and Central Europe at Budapest in November 1998, senior government officials from southern Africa at Pretoria in April 1999 and Governments from Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok in November 1999; the Mediterranean Conference on Population, Migration and Development, held at Palma de Mallorca from 15 to 17 October 1998; and the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, held at The Hague from 29 June to 3 July 1998.

the marginalization of some countries in the global economy, have contributed to large flows of peoples between and among countries and to the intensification of the complex phenomenon of international migration,

Aware also that, in spite of the existence of an already established body of principles, there is a need to make further efforts to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families are respected and protected, and that it is desirable to improve the situation of all documented migrants and their families,

Recognizing the importance from an analytical and operational point of view of identifying the existing linkages among the social, economic, political and cultural factors related to international migration and development and of the need for comprehensive, coherent and effective policies on international migration based on the spirit of genuine partnership and common understanding,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development;[11]

2. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the root causes of migration, especially those related to poverty, and to maximize the benefits of international migration to those concerned;

3. *Encourages*, where relevant, interregional, regional and subregional mechanisms to continue to address the question of migration and development;

4. *Calls upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development and to provide appropriate support for interregional, regional and subregional processes and activities on international migration and development;

5. *Also calls upon* the international community to seek to make the option of remaining in one's country viable for all people, to which end efforts to achieve sustainable economic and social development, ensuring a better economic balance between developed and developing countries, should be strengthened;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, whenever feasible, to solicit more views from Member States, particularly those that have not responded to the survey requested in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 52/189, as well as from the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, on the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session,[12] bearing in mind various regional processes, and to recommend ways and means to address the problems related to migration and development;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to initiate appropriate action in consultation with regional commissions in order to ensure the carrying out of interregional activities, with the contribution of the relevant actors on issues relating to international migration and development, taking into account, *inter alia*, the report of the Secretary-General,[11] and

[11] A/54/207. The report includes information on the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues.

[12] A/52/314.

encourages the United Nations bodies and other appropriate international organizations to provide support to such activities;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report that will, *inter alia*, summarize the lessons learned, as well as best practices on migration management and policies, from the various activities relating to international migration and development that have been carried out at the regional and interregional levels, and recommend for the consideration of the Assembly policy actions that could be pursued at the international level, taking into account, *inter alia*, the following:

(a) The report of the Committee for Development Policy[13] on its examination of the issue of migration and development;

(b) The work of the relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of international migration and development;

(c) The possible mechanisms within the United Nations system to examine international migration and development in a comprehensive and integrated manner;

(d) The need to provide, in consultation with relevant United Nations bodies, an analysis of data relating to migration within and between the various regions;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues".

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[13] See A/54/207, paras. 42-44.